(d) As informed by Coal India Limited, the loading of coal, cut by surface miner is being done through pay loader deployed by Ex-servicemen companies. The Ex-servicemen companies are being paid the Ex-servicemen normative surface loading rate of Rs. 6.85/Te (Tones). The rate being paid is provisional and is subject to finalisation by Industrial Engineering Department study.

Restoration of SECL area

†1892. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of SECL sector restored with sand and soil filling and plantation after the mining of the coal during last five years;

(b) the total area yet to be filled up;

(c) the plan for making alternate use of filled up area;

(d) whether such land would be handed over to its original owners for making better use of it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) SECL has back-filled 817.16 Ha. of voids in opencast mines with overburden soils during last five years and 11,17,750 number trees have been planted over back filled area.

(b) The area yet to be filled up by SECL is 1914.398 Ha.

(c) At present mainly afforestation has been planned over filled up area.

(d) and (e) It is under active consideration of SECL management to identify, demarcate and surrender exhausted/surplus mining lease/mining right to State Government within the legal framework. After surrender of the mining lease/mining right the concerned State Government has to decide regarding the allotment and alternate use of the land.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.